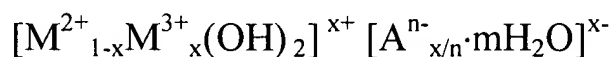


AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.(Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} is at least one organic anion selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation, M^{3+} with said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} to produce an intermediate, and

reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation, M^{2+} in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

2.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said divalent cation source, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

3.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said trivalent cation source, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

4.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a hexanoate.

5.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises an octanoate.

6.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a decanoate.

7.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a stearate.

8.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a benzoate.

9.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a chlorobenzoate.

10.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a naphthoate.

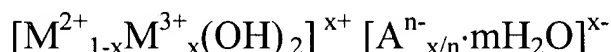
11.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a p-hydroxybenzoate.

12.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises an acrylate.

13.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a methacrylate.

14.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said at least one organic anion, A^{n-} comprises a vinylacetate.

15.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} is an anion comprising a mixture of at least two members of selected from the group consisting of straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_2 - C_4 acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylate acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation, M^{3+} with said anion, A^{n-} to produce an intermediate, and
reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation, M^{2+} in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

16.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

17.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 16, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

18.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

19.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 18, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

20.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} comprises Mg^{2+} and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+} .

21.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 15, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} comprises Al^{3+} and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Al^{3+} , Cr^{3+} , and Fe^{3+} .

22.(Cancelled)

23.(Cancelled)

24.(Cancelled)

25.(Cancelled)

26.(Cancelled)

27.(Cancelled)

28.(Cancelled)

29.(Cancelled)

30.(Cancelled)

31.(Cancelled)

32.(Cancelled)

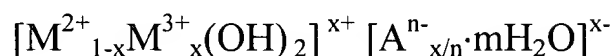
33.(Cancelled)

34.(Cancelled)

35.(Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend comprising:

a polyolefin; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} an organic anion source selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation, M^{3+} with said anion, A^{n-} to produce an intermediate, and

reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation, M^{2+} in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

36.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

37.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

38.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35 wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is selected from the group consisting of hexanoates, octanoates, decanoates,

stearates, benzoates, chlorobenzoates, naphthoates, p-hydroxybenzoates, acrylates, methacrylates and vinylacetates.

39.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is comprised of a mixture of at least two of the following: straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_2 - C_5 acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of methylacrylic acid, and unsaturated carboxylates of vinyl acetic acid.

40.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

41.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

42.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

43.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 42, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

44.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polypropylene.

45.(Cancelled)

46.(Cancelled)

47.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polyethylene.

48.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polybutylene.

49.(Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said polyolefin is polymethyl pentane.

50.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} contains Mg^{2+} and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+} .

51.(Currently Amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 35, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} contains Al^{3+} and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Cr^{3+} and Fe^{3+} .

52.(Cancelled)

53.(Cancelled)

54.(Cancelled)

55.(Cancelled)

56.(Cancelled)

57.(Cancelled)

58.(Cancelled)

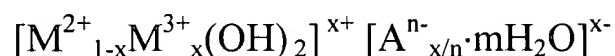
59.(Cancelled)

60.(Cancelled)

61.(New) A synthetic hydrotalcite- polystyrene blend comprising:

a polystyrene; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} an organic anion source selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation, M^{3+} with said anion, A^{n-} to produce an intermediate, and reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation, M^{2+} in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

62.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

63.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

64.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61 wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is selected from the group consisting of hexanoates, octanoates, decanoates, stearates,

benzoates, chlorobenzoates, naphthoates, p-hydroxybenzoates, acrylates, methacrylates and vinylacetates.

65.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is comprised of a mixture of at least two of the following: straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_2 - C_5 acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of methylacrylic acid, and unsaturated carboxylates of vinyl acetic acid.

66.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

67.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

68.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

69.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 68, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

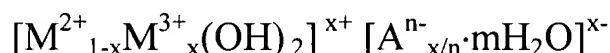
70.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} contains Mg^{2+} and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+} .

71.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 61, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} contains Al^{3+} and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Cr^{3+} and Fe^{3+} .

72.(New) A synthetic hydrotalcite-polyvinylchloride blend comprising:

a polyvinylchloride; and

a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein M^{2+} is a divalent cation, M^{3+} is a trivalent cation and A^{n-} an organic anion source selected from the group consisting of: straight chain carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acid, unsaturated carboxylates of methacrylic acid and unsaturated carboxylates of vinylacetic acid,

said synthetic hydrotalcite being produced by reacting said trivalent cation, M^{3+} with said anion, A^{n-} to produce an intermediate, and reacting said intermediate with said divalent cation, M^{2+} in water to produce said synthetic hydrotalcite.

73.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} consists essentially of Mg^{2+} .

74.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} consists essentially of Al^{3+} .

75.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is selected from the group consisting of hexanoates, octanoates, decanoates,

stearates, benzoates, chlorobenzoates, naphthoates, p-hydroxybenzoates, acrylates, methacrylates and vinylacetates.

76.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is comprised of a mixture of at least two of the following: straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_2 - C_5 acids, straight chain saturated carboxylates of C_5 - C_{18} acids, carboxylates of aromatic acids, carboxylates of acrylic acids, unsaturated carboxylates of methylacrylic acid, and unsaturated carboxylates of vinyl acetic acid.

77.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acetate, a hexanoate and a stearate.

78.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 1.34 acetate : 0.6 hexanoate : 0.8 stearate.

79.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said organic anion, A^{n-} is a mixture of an acrylate, an acetate and a stearate.

80.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 79, wherein the molar ratio of said mixture is about 3.76 acrylate : 1.14 acetate : 0.57 stearate.

81.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said divalent cation, M^{2+} contains Mg^{2+} and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Ni^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+} .

82.(New) The synthetic hydrotalcite-polyolefin blend of claim 72, wherein said trivalent cation, M^{3+} contains Al^{3+} and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of: Cr^{3+} and Fe^{3+} .